

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: *Richard K. Mastain*
Richard K. Mastain, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Authorizations for Standard Teaching Credentials

When the Commission conducted its Assignment/Misassignment study several years ago, we discovered that the most misunderstood and misused credential in California was the Standard Secondary Teaching Credential. Falling between the General Secondary, which authorizes the teaching of any subject in departmentalized classes, and the Ryan Single Subject, which authorizes the teaching of any class within the broad area of the listed subject, the Standard Secondary seems restrictive and confusing. It was intended to authorize service only in the specific subject listed on the document and the subject was derived from the teacher's college major with little regard to how that major related to the subjects commonly taught in the secondary schools. Holders of Standard Secondary Credentials often added minors to expand their authorizations, but most often they were simply assigned as though the subject listed authorized teaching in all subjects within the same department or as though there was no subject listed at all.

Senate Bill 435 (1987) provided some assignment and credentialing options for holders of Standard Secondary Teaching Credentials. *The purpose of this letter is to explain how the Commission will view assignments on Standard Secondary, and also Standard Elementary, Teaching Credentials for the purposes of monitoring,* so that employers can make informed assignment decisions.

Pages 8 and 9 of The Administrator's Assignment Manual provide the following guidelines for assignment on a Standard Secondary:

The subjects listed on this credential are usually very specific. There were an unlimited number of subject possibilities because there was no prescribed list of

subjects as there is under the current law. The holder is only authorized to teach the specific subject listed on the document. For example:

Subject on Document

Authorized Assignment

1. Major or minor in *Speech*

Speech--not any other subjects within the English Department. Note: supplementary authorizations are available under Ed Code §44258.7 to teachers misassigned within the department prior to 9-1-87.

2. Major or minor in *Ethnic Studies*

Ethnic Studies--the curriculum must focus on ethnic studies, not history or government or geography or philosophy or any other related subject.

3. Minor in *Social Science: History*

History--only the subject listed after the colon is authorized, not any other subject in the department.

4. Major or minor in *Biological Science*

Any biological science, such as biology, anatomy, physiology, zoology, entomology. Note: the subject *Biology* is the equivalent of the subject *Biological Science* and also covers the broad area.

5. Major or minor in *Art, Music, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Agriculture, Business, Social Science, or English*

The broader subject areas allow for teaching any class within that department. *Music* and *Art* authorize service in grades K-12.

To this excerpt, we wish to add that the holder of a Standard Secondary Teaching Credential with one of the **SPECIFIC MAJORS** may teach that specific subject and may also teach introductory courses within the general area of that major. For example, a teacher with a major in Physics may teach Physics, Introduction to Physical Science, and General Science, but may not teach Introduction to Life Science. A teacher with a major in History may teach History and Introduction to Social Science, but not Government or Psychology or any other Social Science.

The **SPECIFIC MINORS** on Standard Secondary Teaching Credentials authorize teaching only the specific subject, not introductory courses in the general area. These minors were issued on the basis of 20 semester units of course work in the subject rather than an organized program so the preparation does not justify a broader authorization.

The holder of a **Standard Elementary Teaching Credential** is authorized to teach in a self-contained classroom. In addition, he or she may teach on the major or minor, as explained above for **Standard Secondary Teaching Credentials**, in grades 9 and below. Some **Standard Elementary Teaching Credentials** were issued with majors that do not lend themselves to assignment in departmentalized classes in the elementary and middle/junior high schools, such as *Diversified* or *Liberal Studies* or even *Child Development*. Teachers who have this type of major can only be assigned to departmentalized classes on the basis of their minors or one of the options provided by Title 5 or the Education Code. The holder of a **Standard Early Childhood Education Teaching Credential** is limited to early childhood education.

If you have questions about assignment, please send them to the Commission to the attention of *The Administrator's Assignment Manual*.